

# **Beretta**

**pistol**



**model 21A**

**CALIBER: .22LR or .25 AUTO**

# **BERETTA**

## Caution: Read this manual carefully before handling and loading the pistol.

**WARNING:** Always ensure that the safety is fully engaged until ready to fire. A safety is fully engaged only when the safety can move no further into the safe position. A safety which is not fully engaged will not prevent weapon discharge.

### BASIC SAFETY RULES

1. NEVER POINT A FIREARM AT SOMETHING THAT IS NOT SAFE TO SHOOT.

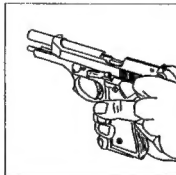
Never let the muzzle of a firearm point at any part of your body or at another person. This is especially important when loading or unloading the firearm. When you are shooting at a target, know what is behind it. Some bullets can travel over a mile. If

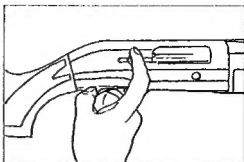
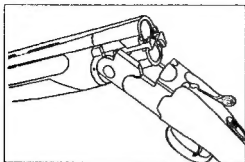


you miss your target or if the bullet penetrates the target, it is your responsibility to ensure that the shot does not cause unintended injury or damage.

2. ALWAYS TREAT A FIREARM AS IF IT WERE LOADED.

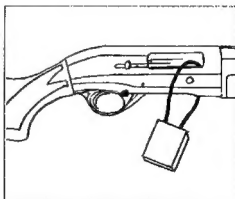
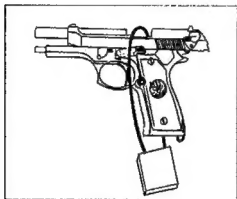
Never assume that a firearm is unloaded. **The only certain way to ensure that a firearm is empty is to open the chamber and visually examine the inside to see if a round is present. Removing the magazine will not guarantee that a pistol is unloaded or cannot fire.** Shotguns and rifles can be checked by cycling or removing all rounds and by then opening the chamber so that a visual inspection of the chamber for any remaining rounds can be made.





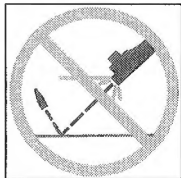
### 3. STORE YOUR FIREARM SO THAT CHILDREN CANNOT GAIN ACCESS TO IT

It is your responsibility to insure that children under the age of 18 or other unauthorized persons do not gain access to your firearm. **To reduce the risk of accidents involving children, unload your firearm, lock it and store the ammunition in a separate locked location.** Please note that devices intended to prevent accidents—for example, cable locks, chamber plugs, etc.—may not prevent use or misuse of your firearm by a determined person. Steel gun safes may be more appropriate to reduce the likelihood of intentional misuse of a firearm by an unauthorized child or person.



### 4. NEVER SHOOT AT WATER OR AT A HARD SURFACE.

Shooting at the surface of water or at a rock or other hard surface increases the chance of ricochets or fragmentation of the bullet or shot, which can result in the projectile striking an unintended or peripheral target.

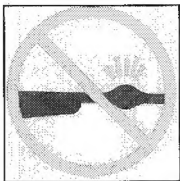


5. KNOW THE SAFETY FEATURES OF THE FIREARM YOU ARE USING, BUT REMEMBER: SAFETY DEVICES ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR SAFE HANDLING PROCEDURES.

Never rely solely on a safety device to prevent an accident. It is imperative that you know and use the safety features of the particular firearm you are handling, but accidents can best be prevented by following the safe handling procedures described in these safety rules and elsewhere in the product manual. To further familiarize yourself with the proper use of this or other firearms, take a Firearms Safety Course taught by an expert in firearms use and safety procedures.

6. PROPERLY MAINTAIN YOUR FIREARM.

Store and carry your firearm so that dirt or lint does not accumulate in the working parts. Clean and oil your firearm, following the instructions provided in this manual, after each use to prevent corrosion, damage to the barrel or accumulation of impurities which can prevent use of the gun in an emergency. Always check the barrel prior to loading to ensure that it is clean and free from obstructions. **Firing against an obstruction can rupture the barrel and injure yourself or others nearby.** In case you hear an unusual noise when shooting, stop firing immediately, engage the manual safety and unload the firearm. Make sure the chamber is free from any obstruction or possible bullet blocked inside the barrel due to defective or improper ammunition.



7. USE PROPER AMMUNITION.

Only use factory-loaded, new ammunition manufactured to industry specifications: CIP (Europe and elsewhere), SAAMI (U.S.A.). Be certain that each round you use is in the proper caliber or gauge and type for the particular firearm. The caliber or gauge of the firearm is clearly marked on the barrels of shotguns and on the slide or barrel of pistols. The use of reloaded or remanufactured ammunition can increase the likelihood of excessive cartridge pressures, casehead ruptures or other defects in the ammunition which can cause damage to your firearm and injury to yourself or others nearby.

8. ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTIVE GLASSES AND EARPLUGS WHEN SHOOTING.

The chance that gas, gunpowder or metal fragments will blow back and injure a shooter who is firing a gun is rare, but the injury that can be sustained in such circumstances is severe, including the possible loss of eyesight. A shooter must always wear impact resistant shooting glasses when firing any firearm. Earplugs help reduce the chance of hearing damage from shooting.



**9. NEVER CLIMB A TREE, FENCE OR OBSTRUCTION WITH A LOADED FIREARM.**

Open and empty the chamber of your firearm before climbing or descending a tree or before climbing a fence or jumping over a ditch or obstruction. Never pull or push a loaded firearm toward yourself or another person.



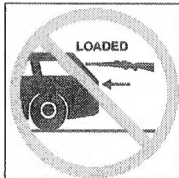
**10. AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR JUDGMENT OR REFLEX IMPAIRING MEDICATION WHEN SHOOTING.**

Do not drink and shoot. If you take medication that can impair motor reactions or judgment, do not handle a firearm while you are under the influence or the medication.



**11. NEVER TRANSPORT A LOADED FIREARM.**

Unload a firearm before putting it in a vehicle. Hunters and target shooters should load their firearm only at their destination. If you carry a firearm for self-protection, leaving the chamber unloaded can reduce the chance of accidental discharge.



**12. LEAD WARNING.**

Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious physical injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.

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**MODEL 21A SPECIFICATIONS: .22LR or .25 AUTO**

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Weight of pistol w/empty magazine (approx.)	340 gr (12 oz.)
Overall length .....	124mm (4.8 in.)
Height w/magazine inserted .....	95mm (3.7 in.)
Width (max) .....	29mm (1.1 in.)
Barrel Length .....	61mm (2.4 in.)

## **BERETTA MODEL 21A**

### **Double Action Semiautomatic Pistol**

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**CAUTION:** Please read this manual carefully **BEFORE** loading the pistol.

Caliber .....	.22LR (Long Rifle)
Rifling .....	6 grooves R.H. twist, one turn in 14 inches
Magazine Capacity .....	7 Rounds
Caliber .....	6, 35 mm .25 Auto
Rifling .....	6 grooves R.H. Twist, one turn in 10 inches
Magazine Capacity .....	8 rounds

### **INTRODUCTION:**

This Beretta U.S.A. Corp. manufactured pistol in caliber .22LR or .25 Auto has features rarely found in sporting pistols. It has the strength, precision, sturdiness and safety devices usually characteristic of pistols in larger caliber, weight and dimensions. The Italian Beretta's world famous reputation for making the finest products continues to be maintained in manufacturing of the Model 21A in the United States.

Physical strength is not required in loading due to a unique barrel mounting system. By finger movement of a lever the barrel is released for direct chamber loading. Close the barrel and the pistol is ready to fire, even if the magazine is not in the weapon. Insert a loaded magazine and you are ready to fire additional rounds. To fire, just disengage the safety and pull the trigger in the double action mode. No manual hammer cocking is required.

The Model 21A has an INERTIA type firing pin which, in addition to the hammer down only, external safety and double action trigger pull, assures the greatest degree of safety if necessary to carry the pistol chamber loaded (NOT RECOMMENDED).

The Model 21A employs a MANUAL THUMB SAFETY. The Safety can quickly be engaged to its upward "ON" or downward "OFF" positions by a flick of the thumb. When the Safety is "OFF" (down), a Red Warning Dot in the slide lock notch is visible. The Safety when "ON" (up) prevents accidental trigger pull and simultaneously by locking the

slide prevents slide retraction. See paragraph BASIC SAFETY.

The Frame is machined from a high strength aluminum alloy forging, and its surface is black anodized finished.

The Barrel is machined from a special high grade barrel steel forging, and its surface is protected by a deep, durable hot bluing.

The Slide is machined from a cold drawn shape of high strength steel and blued by the same process as the barrel.

The small parts are manufactured of special selected high quality steel and hardened according to each part's individual function. All parts are made to tight tolerances to insure the highest degree of interchangeability.

### **BASIC SAFETY:**

**ALWAYS TREAT A FIREARM AS IF IT WERE LOADED.**

**ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE IN A SAFE DIRECTION.**

A firearm when loaded has the potential to kill. Intelligently handled, it is safe.

An accident is always the result of neglect of the basic safety rules.

Accident prevention is the responsibility of anyone handling a firearm.

Before loading a firearm be sure you know how it functions.

Be sure to use correct and undamaged ammunition.

Be sure to keep your firearm clean—before loading inspect the barrel to insure it is perfectly clean and free of foreign objects. Shooting with an obstruction in the barrel such as dirt, mud, grease, lodged bullet or jacket, etc., can cause barrel bulging and/or rupture.

Never shoot a hard flat surface or water when target shooting; always be sure your backstop is adequate.

Avoid alcohol and drugs before and during shooting.

Extreme care must be taken to avoid hitting or dropping a loaded firearm. Even if on SAFE, accidental discharge may occur—some ammunition has very sensitive primers.

Shooting Glasses and Earplugs: Shooting Glasses are a MUST; chances of gas, gunpowder and dirt particle blow-back are remote, but do exist. Earplugs reduce the chance of temporary or permanent loss of hearing when shooting—particularly on an indoor range.



**Firearms Safety Course:** To familiarize yourself with the proper use of firearms, attend a Firearm Safety Course in your area. Remember—only YOU are responsible for the firearm in your hands. Prevent accidents by knowing its function. **HANDLE IT WITH RESPECT, NOT FEAR.** Safety Devices on firearms are EXTRAS and are not substitutes for safe handling.

### **SAFE STORAGE OF PISTOL AND AMMUNITION:**

A loaded/unloaded pistol in an unlocked area is not safe from the curiosity seeker. If stored in an unlocked area, be SURE the pistol is unloaded and the ammunition is stored elsewhere.

To avoid corrosion during storage, the pistol should be thoroughly cleaned and all metal surfaces protected by a light film of a good grade of gun oil. Store pistol unwrapped in a container placed in a ventilated area.

Store ammunition in a container placed in a cool ventilated area.

### **AMMUNITION:**

The model 21A is chambered for either the caliber .22LR (Long Rifle) or the .25 Auto cartridge also known as .25 ACP or 6, 35 mm Browning. Find out which caliber your model 21A uses and use only that caliber.

Before leaving the factory, the pistol has been thoroughly inspected, proof load testfired to check material strength and function tested with various brands of commercial .22LR or .25 Auto ammunition (as applicable).

After a "break in" proof of shooting, you may find that your pistol (like most other semiautomatic pistols) shoots better with one or two brands of ammunition. Standard velocity rounds will typically function more efficiently than higher velocity rounds and with less wear to the weapon.

### **SAFE TRANSPORTATION:**

If local laws permit carrying your pistol in a vehicle, check that it is unloaded (empty chamber, magazine removed, the hammer fully-lowered and the safety "ON").

IN THE FIELD (where legal), the pistol should be carried unloaded (empty chamber, magazine removed, the ham-

mer fully-lowered and the safety "ON") in a holster, with the magazine in a pouch or pocket. It takes only a second to insert the loaded magazine, and a fraction of a second to disengage the safety and retract and release the slide for chamber loading and cocking or, if preferred, to release the barrel for direct chamber loading, avoiding manual slide and hammer manipulation, making the pistol ready to fire by disengagement of the safety and double action trigger pull.

Remember—keep your finger OUTSIDE the trigger guard until ready to fire.

ON THE RANGE, the hammer should be fully-lowered and the safety engaged "ON", the magazine removed and the barrel released until ready to fire. Always keep the chamber unloaded until you are ready to fire.

NOTE: The situation could arise in shooting (field or range) when the chamber is loaded and you want to lock the cocked hammer to prevent inadvertent discharge. Here the THUMB or MANUAL Safety should be used. Being careful to control muzzle direction, push the Safety fully into its upward position.

Remember—the pistol is still cocked and loaded! As soon as possible, UNLOAD the pistol.

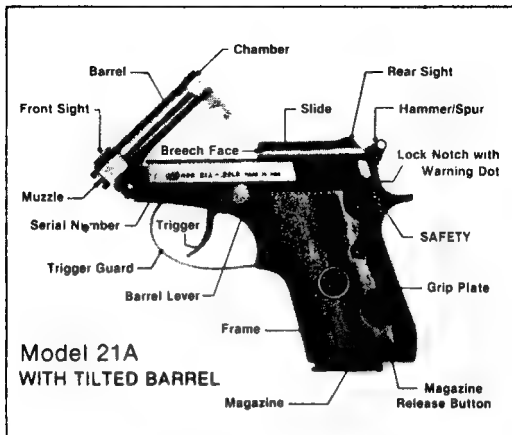
Remember—The quick barrel release can also be used as a Safety device against accidental discharge. Flip the barrel release lever and, when the barrel springs to the tilted position, the pistol cannot be fired unless the barrel is returned to its downward locked position.

### **CAUTION:**

#### **DRY FIRING:**

Dry firing can cause firing pin breakage. If you want to practice aim and trigger pull, insert a FIRED cartridge case in the chamber to cushion the fall of the firing pin and eliminate chances of firing pin breakage.

## PISTOL NOMENCLATURE:



## LOADING THE MAGAZINE:

**CAUTION!!** Make sure the chamber is not already loaded.

**To Remove the Magazine:**

Depress the Magazine Release Button located on the left side's, lower rear corner of pistol grip, and withdraw magazine.

**To Load the Magazine:**

Hold the magazine in the left hand. With your right hand place a cartridge on the follower in front of the lips, press down and slide the cartridge completely back under the lips. Repeat loading until the magazine contains 7 .22LR or 8 .25 Auto rounds, as appropriate to your pistol. **DO NOT** try to force an extra cartridge into the magazine. **NOTE:** The .22LR Magazine Follower Retaining Screw can be pulled downward by the thumb to ease loading.

## **TO LOAD THE PISTOL BY THE BARREL TILTING METHOD:**

Release the Barrel by a forward movement of the Barrel Lever, which is conveniently located on the frame's left side above the trigger. Insert a cartridge into the chamber, and push the barrel down. A sharp click indicates Barrel Lever Engagement. (As a precaution, visually inspect that the Barrel Lever is securely closed or pull lever toward its rear stop). The pistol is now chamber loaded, ready to be fired by trigger pull.

Push the fully loaded magazine into the grip's magazine well. A sharp click indicates magazine catch engagement. The pistol is now chamber and magazine loaded and ready to fire.

Remember—when the hammer is fully-lowered to rest against the slide, the pistol can be fired by double action trigger pull (direct trigger pull—no manual hammer cocking). Therefore, as a safety precaution, **ENGAGE THE SAFETY** by pushing up. The Safety locks the slide when the red warning dot is covered and the Safety can go up no further.

**NOTE:** Due to the unique barrel tilting system Model 21A has no **EXTRACTOR**. As long as you use appropriate undamaged ammunition and keep the chamber clean you will not have loading and unloading problems.

## **TO LOAD THE PISTOL BY SLIDE MANIPULATION:**

Push the fully loaded magazine into the grip's magazine well. A sharp click indicates magazine catch engagement.

Remember—when the hammer is fully-lowered and Safety "ON" the slide cannot be pulled.

**DISENGAGE SAFETY** (pull down—Safety unlocks slide/**RED WARNING DOT** visible).

Grasp the slide serration with thumb and index finger (keep finger outside the trigger guard), retract the slide to solid stop (activating the recoil springs and cocking the hammer). **QUICKLY** release the slide. The slide will automatically close, chambering the first cartridge from the maga-

zine. The hammer is fully-cocked. The pistol is ready to fire.

**NOTE:** Exercise Extreme Caution. Always point the Muzzle in a Safe Direction. **ENGAGE SAFETY** unless you intend to shoot.

**CAUTION!!** Since the Slide has no Extractor the chamber cannot be unloaded by slide retraction, therefore, **DO NOT** retract and release the slide over a loaded magazine as the slide will jam the top cartridge from the magazine against the chambered cartridge.

### **UNLOADING OF PISTOL AND MAGAZINE:**

As a safety precaution, whether the hammer is fully lowered, half-cocked or fully-cocked, **ENGAGE THE SAFETY**. Release the barrel by a forward movement of the Barrel Lever and remove the chambered cartridge.

**NOTE:** Quick barrel release may eject the chambered cartridge. If the barrel is released under finger support, the cartridge will remain in the chamber. Elevate the muzzle and the cartridge will fall out. Since the Model 21A slide does not have an extractor, the chamber cannot be unloaded by slide retraction.

Depress the Magazine Release Button and remove the magazine. Disengage the Safety and fully-lower the hammer.

To unload the Magazine: On the .22LR magazine, with your thumb, draw down the Follower Screw, simultaneously tilt the magazine mouth downward and as you shake the cartridges out, slowly ease-up the Follower Screw support, permitting the follower to guide the cartridge dropout. On the .25 Auto magazine, press down on the cartridge rim with your thumb and push, easing the bullet over the front wall. Repeat until unloaded.

Remember—to avoid malfunction, always keep the magazine clean. Dropping the magazine may dent the box, and bend and/or burr the lips.

## **HOW TO LOWER THE HAMMER:**

**WARNING!!** Even though the Model 21A has an inertia Firing Pin (reduces chances of accidental discharge), a falling hammer (even from a short distance) may cause discharge, especially if the cartridge has a sensitive primer. We do not recommend lowering the hammer on a chambered round.

**NOTE:** The Model 21A has an added safeguard: The barrel can be released (tipped up) before lowering the hammer on a chambered round.

To lower the fully-cocked or half-cocked hammer to the fully-lowered position, disengage the Safety. Manually retract the hammer spur. Depress the trigger while cautiously allowing the hammer to move all the way forward under thumb control.

When the hammer is fully-lowered, ENGAGE SAFETY (push up—Safety locks slide, covering red warning dot).

If the barrel, as a safety precaution, was released during hammer lowering, push the barrel down, and insure that the barrel lever is securely closed.

## **HOW TO COCK THE HAMMER:**

Since the Model 21A has a double action trigger mechanism, manual hammer cocking is not necessary unless the shooter prefers to fire the first round by the shorter and lighter single action trigger pull.

**WARNING!!** Even though the Model 21A has an Inertia Firing Pin and Half-Cocked hammer position, a falling hammer (even from a short distance) may cause discharge if the cartridge has a sensitive primer.

**NOTE:** The Model 21A has an added safeguard: The barrel can be released before cocking the hammer on a chambered round.

To cock the fully-lowered hammer to fully-cocked position: Disengage the Safety. Keep finger away from trigger. Place the thumb on the hammer spur. Retract the hammer in a continuous motion to solid frame tang stop. A sharp

click indicates the sear is in position to secure the hammer. Gradually ease up the thumb pressure, allowing the hammer to move forward a short distance to solid hammer/sear engagement. Remove thumb from spur and ENGAGE SAFETY.

### **SAFETY/FULLY-COCKED HAMMER RELATIONSHIP:**

Remember—when the pistol is chamber loaded by slide manipulation or automatically during the shooting cycle (but not direct hand loading of chamber), the hammer is fully-cocked and the pistol is ready to fire.

**WARNING!!** Careless handling of a loaded pistol, with or without the safety engaged, could result in accidental discharge. DO NOT check the mechanical functioning of the Safety when the CHAMBER IS LOADED—check it with empty chamber. DO NOT try to override the Safety by asserting excessive trigger pull force.

A sharp click from a spring plunger can be heard when the Safety is turned between “ON” and “OFF”. The spring plunger secures the Safety in either position.

The Safety is ENGAGED “ON” in its upward position. NO Warning Dot is visible.

The Safety is DISENGAGED “OFF” in its downward position. The RED WARNING DOT is visible.

The Safety, when engaged, securely blocks the Sear, preventing trigger pull and hammer fall.

The Safety, when engaged, locks the slide.

### **SAFETY/FULLY-LOWERED HAMMER RELATIONSHIP:**

Remember—the chamber may be loaded even though the hammer is Fully-Lowered to its “discharged” position.

**WARNING!!** If the pistol is carried chamber loaded (NOT RECOMMENDED) with the hammer fully-lowered, ENGAGE the SAFETY: DO NOT try to override the Safety by asserting excessive trigger pull force. Also, the mechanism may be damaged by forceful manual hammer cocking.

A sharp click from a springer plunger can be heard when the Safety is turned between "ON" and "OFF". The spring plunger secures the Safety in either position.

The Safety, in its upward ENGAGED position locks the slide. NO WARNING DOT is visible.

The Safety is Disengaged in its downward position. The RED WARNING DOT is visible.

The fully-lowered Hammer with the Safety ENGAGED can be retracted into the half-cocked (Drop Catch) position by either a light and short trigger pull or manual hammer cocking.

**CAUTION!!** Should the fully-lowered Hammer with the Safety "ON" be retracted into its Half-Cocked (Drop Catch) position the hammer cannot be lowered. See section "HOW TO LOWER THE HAMMER".

### **SAFETY/HALF-COCKED HAMMER RELATIONSHIP:**

To REDUCE the chance of untriggered discharge due to accidental hammer fall from the full cocked position, the falling hammer is caught and secured in a half-cocked position by the Sear entering the Hammer's Drop Catch Notch.

When the Hammer is half-cocked and the Safety ENGAGED, the hammer cannot be retracted to its fully-cocked position.

With the hammer half-cocked and the Safety DISENGAGED "OFF", the pistol can be fired by double action trigger pull, the length of pull being slightly shorter than when fired from the fully-lowered position.

**WARNING!!** To avoid the remote risk of accidental discharge due to impact against the hammer spur DO NOT carry the pistol chamber loaded with the Hammer half-cocked. Should the pistol be inadvertently dropped and the hammer struck, the impact could damage or perhaps break either the Hammer notch, Sear Pin, and/or Sear, causing the hammer to strike the firing pin.



## **DOUBLE ACTION TRIGGER PULL:**

The Double Action feature is a safety device. It makes it possible to fire the pistol quickly from the hammer's fully-lowered position. It eliminates the necessity of manual hammer cocking.

Take advantage of the Double Action Trigger Pull:

—When the pistol is chamber loaded by the barrel release method and the hammer remains fully-lowered.

—If the hammer after shooting has been fully-lowered over a chambered round.

—In case of misfire and/or possible hang-fire.

**CAUTION!!** Always **ENGAGE SAFETY** when the hammer is fully-lowered—unless you are ready to shoot.

**NOTE:** During normal shooting with a loaded magazine, only the first shot requires Double Action trigger pull. The remaining rounds will be discharged by Single Action trigger pull. The Double Action pull is longer and slightly harder than the Single Action pull.

## **SINGLE ACTION TRIGGER PULL:**

The Single Action pull is ideal for target practice accuracy as it is light, short and crisp.

When the pistol is chamber loaded by slide manipulation or from firing, the reciprocating slide will full-cock the hammer and ready the pistol for Single Action trigger pull discharge.

**CAUTION!!** Always **ENGAGE SAFETY** when the hammer is fully-cocked—unless you are ready to shoot.

## **FIRING:**

Check that your target and backstop are safe.

Point the muzzle in a safe direction (toward backstop) and disengage the Safety if engaged. Grasp the pistol firmly

with your shooting hand—if you prefer, use two hands support. Be sure to avoid finger rest against the Barrel Lever (inadvertent release), or safety (inadvertent engagement). Also, be sure to keep hand(s) below the frame's web guard tang to permit free slide recoil. Aim the pistol and align front and rear sight on target, fire by squeezing the trigger. Be sure to point the muzzle in a safe direction after discharge—and keep finger off trigger. The discharge will recoil the slide, eject the fired (spent) cartridge case, fully-cock the hammer and activate the recoil springs. The compressed recoil springs will automatically close the slide, feeding the next cartridge from the magazine into the chamber, and the pistol is ready to fire until empty.

**NOTE:** The slide will close after the last round has been fired, with the chamber empty and the hammer cocked. As a precaution, release the barrel, check the chamber and lower the hammer.

### **MISFIRE AND/OR HANG-FIRE:**

The model 21A has an exposed hammer for added safety. A shooter can see and feel the exposed hammer in positions: Fully-Lowered (fire), Half-Cocked (hammer drop catch) or Fully-Cocked (ready to fire).

Remember—discharge of a chambered cartridge occurs when the hammer drives the firing pin into the primer.

Should you experience a misfire (no discharge) wait at least 15 seconds before relaxing the point of aim as a precaution against hang-fire (delayed discharge due to faulty ammo). If no discharge occurs, pull the trigger again in the double action mode (as a safety precaution, **DO NOT** thumb cock the hammer). On the second attempt, if no discharge occurs, wait 15 seconds and then release the barrel, remove cartridge from chamber and check firing pin indentation in primer. If normal, reload and continue shooting, but if minor or absent, leave gun unloaded and remove the magazine. Cock hammer and with a small instrument (pencil) push firing pin forward, check for damage and free movement and for hammer's free movement (hold

thumb on spur, pull trigger and swing hammer back and forth).

### **JAMMING/MALFUNCTIONING:**

All Beretta firearms have been designed, manufactured and thoroughly tested to insure durability and trouble-free function. If properly maintained, operated, and loaded with good quality ammunition, malfunction is practically nonexistent.

**NOTE:** Should malfunction (jamming) occur while loading, unloading or shooting, **DO NOT PANIC**—simply keep finger away from the trigger, be sure to point the muzzle in a safe direction; and if possible:

Fully-cock the hammer and engage the Safety.  
Release barrel and remove the chambered cartridge.

Remove the Magazine.

Check pistol for damage and mechanical function.

Check ejected cartridge. Do not load with damaged (dented or deformed) ammunition.

### **DISASSEMBLY: (Field Stripping of Unloaded Pistol)**

1. Remove Magazine by depressing the magazine release button.
2. Release Barrel by pushing the barrel lever forward.
3. Swing the Barrel forward over its hinge to solid stop.
4. Fully-Cock the Hammer (Safety Off).
5. Grasp firmly around the front section of the slide with thumb and index finger. Retract the slide about one eighth of an inch—lift the front end of the slide above the frame's barrel hinge (sharp click indicates recoil spring lever's disengagement from the slide), and pull the slide forward until it clears the frame's guide lugs.
6. Only if exceptionally dirty will it be necessary to remove the grips.

## FIELD STRIPPING

It is not necessary to remove grips for normal cleaning.



**ILLUSTRATED  
CAL: .22LR**

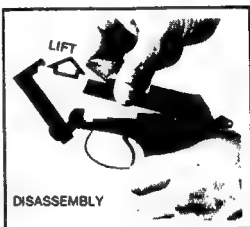
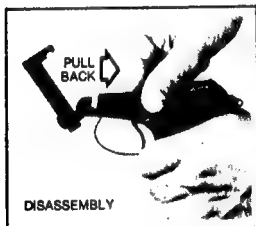
**CAUTION!!** Further Disassembly not recommended for cleaning.  
DO NOT release the hammer to fall by activating the trigger when the slide and/or grips are removed.

## **REASSEMBLY: (Field Stripping)**

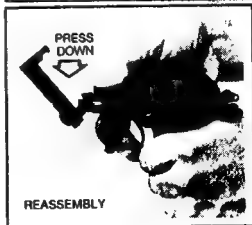
Reverse of Disassembly.

1. If removed for extensive cleaning, carefully mount the right and left grip, tighten the grip screws snugly—DO NOT use excessive force.
2. Elevate the front end of the slide and place the rear end of the slide over the frame just in front of the frame's guide lugs. Carefully pull the slide rails back over the frame's guide lugs; simultaneously, lower the front end of the slide down to gently rest on the frame

- (top of the recoil spring levers), move the slide forward to stop against the frame's barrel hinge ears.
3. Place your thumb across the front section of the slide's sidewalls—PRESS DOWN—sharp clicks indicates engagement between the recoil spring levers and slide cutouts. Visually check that the underside of the slide is resting flat against the frame's sliding surface (slide and frame parallel).
  4. Swing the barrel back to closed position (check Barrel Lever closing).
  5. Pull the slide and release to check for perfect function.
  6. Manually Lower the Hammer.
  7. ENGAGE SAFETY.
  8. Insert Magazine.



**DISASSEMBLY AND  
REASSEMBLY OF  
THE BERETTA  
MODEL 21A  
Double Action  
Semiautomatic Pistol**



**NOTE:** It is important that a weapon be kept clean and properly oiled to insure perfect function but weapons are often "worn out" or damaged more by unnecessary and excessive degree of disassembly and assembly rather than actual shooting.

## **CLEANING:**

Clean pistol whenever a notable amount of gun powder residue, grease, cartridge metal particles, field dirt, etc. have accumulated in the action.

Use a good grade of CLP (Cleaner-Lubricant-Preservative) gun oil.

Use a lintfree cloth; a small brush, pipe cleaners, cotton swabs, toothpicks and a small wood applicator to remove dirt, etc.—DO NOT use a sharp instrument.

Always clean the barrel bore and chamber thoroughly after shooting using a cleaning rod with a patch, or brush fitting tightly into the chamber and bore—clean the barrel from the chamber. Be sure to recheck the barrel for possible sweat-out a few days after the shooting cleaning.

Always clean the breech/or bolt face of the slide. Be sure to check for free movement of the firing pin.

Oil moving parts lightly.

For most effective exterior rust protection, rub a thin film of oil onto the surface with a cloth.

Your dealer can provide a small cleaning kit at little cost.

## **Mod 21A Parts List**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Nomenclature</b>	<b>★ SPECIFY CALIBER</b>	<b>Note</b>
1	Slide ★ .....		1
2	Barrel compl ★ .....		1
4	Barrel Mounting Pin		
5	Firing Pin ★		
6	Firing Pin Spring		
7	Firing Pin Retaining Pin		
10	Barrel Lever		
14a	Hammer Strut w/Spring Retainer (14, 15, 16)★		3

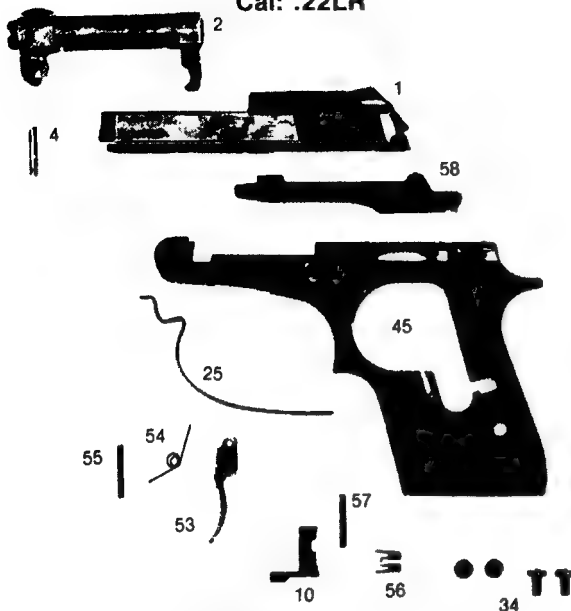
No.	Nomenclature	★ SPECIFY CALIBER	Note
19	Sear Pin		
20	Magazine Release Button		
21	Magazine Catch Spring		
22	Magazine Catch		
25	Trigger Guard		
—	M21 Grip Wood Grip L & R		
34	Grip Screws (4)		
—	M21 Clip .22 Magazine		
—	M25 Clip .25 Magazine		
36	Follower ★		
37	Magazine Floorplate Catch		
38	Magazine Floorplate		
39	Magazine Spring ★		
45	Frame .....		2
46	Hammer		
47	Hammer/Safety Stop Pin		
48	Sear		
49	Sear Spring		
50	Safety .....		4
51	Safety Spring Plunger		
52	Safety Spring		
53	Trigger		
54	Trigger Spring		
55	Trigger Pin		
56	Barrel Lever Spring		
57	Barrel Lever Stop Pin		
58	Trigger Bar		
59	Trigger Bar Spring		
60	Recoil Spring (2) ★		
61	Recoil Spring Cover (2)		
62	Recoil Spring Plunger (2)		
63	Recoil Spring Lever (2)		
64	Ejector Pin (2)		
65	Ejector		
69	Follower Screw		

**NOTE:**

1. Factory installation only.
2. Not for sale.
3. Sold only as assembly.
4. Fitting required.

**SPECIFY:**  
Caliber, Parts No. and  
Nomenclature  
Nickel/Gold

**Illustrated  
Cal: .22LR**



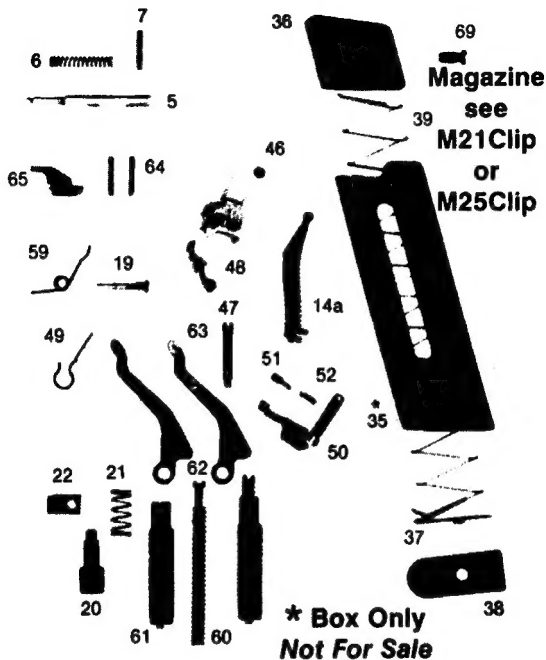
**Wood Grips Sold as Pair Only**

**SERVICE:**

In most cases your local dealer can assist with answers relating to maintenance and parts.

\* Parts price list and parts can be ordered from Beretta. Please read the Warranty—it gives valuable information concerning In-Warranty service, or write to:





# **BERETTA U.S.A CORP.**

Product Service Dept.  
 17601 Beretta Drive  
 Accokeek, Maryland 20607  
 Phone: (301) 283-2191

## **LIMITED WARRANTY**

THIS "LIMITED WARRANTY" HAS BEEN DRAFTED TO COMPLY WITH THE MAGNUSON-MOSS WARRANTY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION IMPROVEMENT ACT WHICH IS EFFECTIVE FOR GOODS MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1976.

Beretta U.S.A. warrants that this firearm was manufactured free of defects in material or workmanship and, for a period of one (1) year after date of original purchase, the Manufacturer agrees to correct any such defects in this firearm by repair or replacement (at Beretta's discretion and, if replaced, with the same or comparable quality firearm). Beretta does not warrant the wood or metal with respect to finish, matching of pieces, dents, scratches, cuts, dings, etc. which are or should be apparent to the purchaser when the product is purchased.

It is the customer's responsibility to inspect their particular product prior to purchase to ensure that it is free from defects or damage. Replacement of wood due to defects which could not have been detected prior to purchase will only be made within the regular warranty period.

A service and/or handling charge may be made for non-warranty repairs. Return product prepaid to Beretta U.S.A. Corp., Attn: Service Dept., 17601 Beretta Drive, Accokeek, Maryland 20607.

BERETTA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCT MALFUNCTION OR FOR PHYSICAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTING IN WHOLE OR IN PART FROM CRIMINAL OR NEGLIGENT USE OF THE PRODUCT, IMPROPER OR CARELESS HANDLING, UNAUTHORIZED MODIFICATIONS, USE OF DEFECTIVE, IMPROPER, HAND-LOADED OR RELOADED AMMUNITION, CUSTOMER ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF THE PRODUCT, OR OTHER INFLUENCES BEYOND BERETTA'S DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE CONTROL. THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT APPLY TO NORMAL WEAR OF ANY PARTS, INCLUDING METAL, WOOD, PLASTIC, RUBBER AND OTHER MATERIAL'S SURFACE FINISH OR IF UNAUTHORIZED REPAIR AND/OR ALTERATION HAS BEEN PERFORMED.

The terms of the Warranty cannot be changed except in writing by an officer of Beretta U.S. A. Corp.

Wholesalers and Dealers (unless a Beretta U.S.A. Corp. authorized warranty repair station) are not authorized to make any warranty repair or adjustment on behalf of Beretta U.S.A. Corp.

This Warranty gives only the original retail purchaser specific legal rights. Other rights may also be available which may vary from state to state.

Should service be required for this firearm, please return, giving full details of the defect or malfunction, stating date of purchase and dealer from whom the firearm was purchased, along with a copy of your sales receipt.

**BERETTA U.S.A. CORP.**  
**Customer Service Dept.**  
**17601 Beretta Drive**  
**Accokeek, MD 20607**

**Phone: (800) 636-3420    Fax: (301) 283-0308**



BERETTA USA CORP.

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